

March 11, 2005

Dear Friend,

Yesterday the House of Representatives took an important step toward improving our infrastructure in New Mexico and throughout the nation by passing H.R. 3, the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU). This vital legislation reauthorizes our country's federal highway, highway safety, and transit programs for the next six years at a level of \$284 billion.

H.R. 3 contains millions of dollars for New Mexico and will bring hundreds of new jobs and funding in new road construction over the next six years to our state. In such a large, rural state as New Mexico, keeping our highways in prime condition is crucial to the economy and our safety, and this bill goes a long way toward that goal. In addition, the funding for public transit through this legislation is extremely important. Public transit is at the heart of making our communities better places to live. This method of transportation is better for the environment and can help increase access to jobs and community services for all residents.

I voted in support of this legislation, and am pleased that it passed by a vote of 417 to 9. However, the legislation now faces an uncertain future due to ongoing disagreements over the level of funding for the reauthorization. This disagreement goes back to the 108th Congress, when we were unable to pass legislation through both chambers to send to the President. At that time, the House passed the same amount of funding as this year's bill--\$284 billion--but the Senate passed a reauthorization measure with \$318 billion in funding. The President vowed to veto either bill, and has again threatened to veto the House legislation should it come to his desk. I will continue to work to pass this important legislation. For additional information, please [click here](#).

Very Truly Yours,

Tom Udall